

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9-14 and 17-20 were previously presented. Claims 1, 3 and 11 are amended and claims 12-14 and 17-20 are canceled, without prejudice. Thus, claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 9-11 are now pending.

Claim Objections

The Action objects to claims 1, 3 and 12 under 37 CFR 1.75(a) and suggests that the claims be amended to recite "document input means for obtaining a page of an image comprising a plurality of pages to be transmitted". Claims 1 and 3 are amended as suggested. Claim 12 is canceled, without prejudice, rendering the objection to claim 12 moot.

Claims 11 and 18 are objected to for grammatical informalities. Claim 11 is amended as suggested. Claim 18 is canceled, without prejudice, rendering the objection to claim 18 moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112

Claims 1, 3 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. In particular, the Action asserts that it is unclear as to whether the message is appended after the page is transmitted and questions how a message can be appended to a document page that is already transmitted.

The message is appended to the last page before the last page is transmitted. In order to clarify this point and overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, claims 1 and 3 are amended to recite "appends a message to a document page to be transmitted last".

Claim 12 is canceled, without prejudice, rendering the objections to claim 12 under 35 USC 112 moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 9-11 is noted and appreciated. As these claims have been amended to overcome all

objections and rejections under 35 USC 112, applicant submits that claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 9-11 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Okada et al. (US 5,892,587) in view of Saito et al. (US 6,618,749). Claims 13, 17 and 18 are rejected as obvious over Okada and Saito in view of Maniwa (US 5,768,483). Claim 19 is rejected as obvious over Okada and Saito in view of Ochiai (US 5,457,544). Claim 20 is rejected as obvious over Okada, Saito and Maniwa in view of Ochiai.


Claims 12-14 and 17-20 are canceled, without prejudice, rendering the rejections of these claims under 35 USC 103(a) moot.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Please charge any fees due with this response to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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By: 
Troy M. Schmelzer
Registration No. 36,667
Attorney for Applicant(s)

500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900
Los Angeles, California 90071
Phone: 213-337-6700
Fax: 213-337-6701